

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-23 and add new claims 24-41, all as shown below.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
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10. (Canceled)
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12. (Canceled)
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14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (New) A method for enhancing the functionality of an electronic message, comprising the steps of:
  - receiving the electronic message by message functionality technology;
  - determining whether the message includes at least one command instruction by the message functionality technology and delivering the message if the message does not contain a command instruction;

identifying an application provider that will modify the message by the message functionality technology based on the information contained in the command instruction if the message does contain a command instruction;

preparing a request by the message functionality technology based on instructions contained in the command instruction;

transmitting the request to the application provider;

receiving a response from the application provider as a result of the transmission of the request;

determining whether the response includes any instructions by the message functionality technology and delivering the message if it does not contain an instruction;

modifying the original electronic message based on the instructions contained in the response if the response includes instructions; and

delivering the modified message to the intended recipients.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein when the message contains multiple command instructions the determining, identifying, preparing, transmitting, receiving, determining, and modifying steps are repeated for each command instruction in the message prior to the delivery of the message.

26. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the command instruction is in the form of a URL.

27. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the request is prepared in a

format for transmitting using an HTTP POST command.

28. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the request includes a destination, a set of parameters with associated values, and a data stream.

29. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the response is returned in the form of a HTTP POST response.

30. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the response includes at least one parameter and at least one value associated with the parameter, and a data stream.

31. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the request includes a host, a file, at least one parameter, at least one value associated with the parameter, and a data stream.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein the host and file indicate the application provider for providing the function; and wherein the at least one parameter and the at least one associated value indicate information to be delivered to the application provider.

33. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the message is received by a first portion of the message technology which is located on the computing device from which the message originates and further wherein the first portion of the message functionality re-routes the message so that the message is delivered to a second computing device which includes a second portion of the message technology which receives the re-routed message and controls any modification

of the message.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein when the message contains multiple command instructions the determining, identifying, preparing, transmitting, receiving, determining, and modifying steps are repeated for each command instruction in the message prior to the delivery of the message.

35. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the command instruction is in the form of a URL.

36. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the request is prepared in a format for transmitting using an HTTP POST command.

37. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the request includes a destination, a set of parameters with associated values, and a data stream.

38. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the response is returned in the form of a HTTP POST response.

39. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the response includes at least one parameter and at least one value associated with the parameter, and a data stream.

40. (New) A method according to claim 33 wherein the request includes a host, a file, at least one parameter, at least one value associated with the parameter, and a data stream.

41. (New) A method according to claim 40 wherein the host and file indicate the application provider for providing the function; and wherein the at least one

parameter and at least one associated value indicate information to be delivered to the application provider.